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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Agenda items 20, 56, 64, 71, 81, 88,
95, 98, 103, 112, 117, 152 and 157
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF
HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE
QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS
IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS
MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SITUATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 11 November 1997 from the Permanent Representatives
of China and the United States of America to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint statement of the United States of America and China, issued in Washington, D.C., on 29 October 1997 during the state visit of the President of the People's Republic of China to the United States of America (see annex).

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We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20, 56, 64, 71, 81, 88, 95, 98, 103, 112, 117, 152 and 157, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bill RICHARDSON
Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
the United States of America
to the United Nations

(Signed) QIN Huasun
Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Joint statement of China and the United States of America
issued on 29 October 1997

At the invitation of President William J. Clinton of the United States of America, President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China is paying a state visit to the United States from 26 October to 3 November 1997. This is the first state visit by the President of China to the United States in 12 years. President Jiang held formal talks with President Clinton in Washington, D.C., and also met with Vice-President Al Gore, Congressional leaders and other American leaders. Talks also were held between Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

The two Presidents had an in-depth and productive exchange of views on the international situation, China-United States relations and the important opportunities and challenges facing the two countries. They agree that a sound and stable relationship between China and the United States serves the fundamental interests of both the Chinese and American peoples and is important to fulfilling their common responsibility to work for peace and prosperity in the twenty-first century.

They agree that while China and the United States have areas of both agreement and disagreement, they have a significant common interest and a firm common will to seize opportunities and meet challenges cooperatively, with candour and a determination to achieve concrete progress. China and the United States have major differences on the question of human rights. At the same time, they also have great potential for cooperation in maintaining global and regional peace and stability; promoting world economic growth; preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; advancing Asia-Pacific regional cooperation; combating narcotics-trafficking, international organized crime and terrorism; strengthening bilateral exchanges and cooperation in economic development, trade, law, environmental protection, energy, science and technology and education and culture, as well as engaging in military exchanges.

The two Presidents are determined to build towards a constructive strategic partnership between China and the United States through increasing cooperation to meet international challenges and promote peace and development in the world. To achieve this goal, they agree to approach China-United States relations from a long-term perspective on the basis of the principles of the three China-United States joint communiqués.

China stresses that the Taiwan question is the most important and sensitive central question in China-United States relations, and that the proper handling of this question in strict compliance with the principles set forth in the three China-United States joint communiqués holds the key to sound and stable growth of China-United States relations. The United States reiterates that it adheres to its "one China" policy and the principles set forth in the three joint China-United States communiqués.

As permanent members of the Security Council, China and the United States support the United Nations in its efforts, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to play a positive and effective role on global issues, including peacekeeping and the promotion of economic and social development. Both countries support efforts to reform the United Nations and to make the Security Council more representative, while retaining and improving its effectiveness. Stressing the need to put the United Nations on a firmer financial basis, both countries will participate actively in discussions on the scale of assessments in the United Nations.

As two major countries in the Asia-Pacific region, China and the United States are ready to strengthen their cooperation to meet various challenges and make positive contributions to promoting stability and prosperity in the region. Recognizing that maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean peninsula is of great importance, the two countries are working through the four-party talks to help establish a durable peace on the peninsula, and will continue consultations to this end. They also stress that it is in the interest of the two countries to maintain peace and stability in other important regions, including the Middle East, the Gulf and South Asia.

The two Presidents agreed on a number of steps that will provide a framework for further promoting China-United States relations and strengthening their cooperation in international affairs.

High-level dialogue and consultations

China and the United States agree to regular visits by their Presidents to each other's capitals.

They agree to a Beijing-Washington presidential communications link to facilitate contact.

They also agree to regular exchanges of visits by cabinet and subcabinet officials to consult on political, military, security and arms control issues.

Cooperation on energy and the environment

China and the United States reaffirm the importance of bilateral cooperation across the broad range of environmental issues, as evidenced by the establishment of the China-United States Forum on Environment and Development in March 1997.

They consider it a critical challenge to develop and use energy resources efficiently, protect the global environment and promote environmentally sound growth and development. Accordingly, they agree to strengthen their cooperation in energy and environment through an initiative to accelerate clean energy projects and to transfer related technologies. The principal areas of cooperation will be in clean energy, urban air pollution control and rural electrification. This initiative also will foster broader cooperation on global environmental issues such as climate change, desertification and biodiversity. China's State Planning Commission and the United States Energy Department have signed the China-United States initiative on Energy and Environment Cooperation

to promote effective cooperation in those fields, including the use of clean energy.

Economic relations and trade

The two Presidents are prepared to take positive and effective measures to expand China-United States trade and economic ties. As both economies move into the twenty-first century, information technology will be critical to spurring technological innovation and improving productivity. In this regard, China indicated its intention to participate as soon as possible in the Information Technology Agreement. In addition, in the context of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, China will continue to make further substantial tariff reductions. China and the United States agree that the full participation of China in the multilateral trading system is in their mutual interest. To that end, they agree to intensify negotiations on market access, including tariffs, non-tariff measures, services, standards and agriculture and on implementation of WTO principles so that China can accede to WTO on a commercially meaningful basis on the earliest possible date.

Peaceful nuclear cooperation

China and the United States agree that it is in their mutual interest to cooperate in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. To that end, they each have taken the steps necessary to implement the China-United States Agreement on Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation concluded in 1985. In addition, China's State Planning Commission and the United States Department of Energy have signed an agreement of intent to promote peaceful nuclear cooperation and research between the two countries.

Non-proliferation

China and the United States agree to work to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force on the earliest possible date. They also agree to pursue at the United Nations Conference on Disarmament the early start of formal negotiations on a treaty on the prohibition of the production of fissile materials used in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

China and the United States reiterate their commitment not to provide any assistance to unsafeguarded nuclear facilities and nuclear-explosion programmes. China has placed controls on exports of nuclear and dual-use materials and related technology and will take further measures to strengthen dual-use export controls by mid-1998. The United States will continue to enforce firm controls on the export of nuclear and dual-use materials and related technology. As original parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, China and the United States agree to cooperate in implementing the Convention within a multilateral framework. Both countries agree on the importance of government oversight of chemical-related exports. China and the United States agree to build on the 1994 Joint Statement on Missile Non-Proliferation. They reaffirm their respective commitments to the guidelines and parameters of the missile technology control regime.

Human rights

China and the United States both recognize the positive role of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments in promoting human rights. They reiterate their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

While the two countries have not resolved their differences on human rights, they have agreed to discuss them through dialogue at both governmental and non-governmental levels in the spirit of equality and mutual respect. The two countries agree to hold discussions on the structure and functions of a non-governmental organization forum on human rights.

Cooperation in the field of law

China and the United States agree that promoting cooperation in the field of law serves the interests and needs of both countries.

They will strengthen cooperation in combating international organized crime, narcotics-trafficking, alien smuggling, counterfeiting and money-laundering. To that end, they intend to establish a joint liaison group for law enforcement cooperation composed of representatives of the relevant agencies of both Governments. They agree to begin consultations on mutual legal assistance aimed at concluding a mutual legal assistance agreement.

China and the United States will assign counter-narcotics officers to their respective embassies on a reciprocal basis.

Recognizing the importance China and the United States both attach to legal exchanges, they intend to establish a joint liaison group to pursue cooperative activities in this area. These may include exchanges of legal experts, training of judges and lawyers, strengthening legal information systems and the exchange of legal materials, sharing ideas about legal assistance, consulting on administrative procedures and strengthening commercial law and arbitration.

As part of this programme of legal cooperation, China's Minister of Justice will visit the United States in November 1997 at the invitation of the United States Attorney-General.

Military-to-military relations

China and the United States have reached agreement on the establishment of a consultation mechanism to strengthen military maritime safety, which will enable their maritime and air forces to avoid accidents, misunderstandings and miscalculations.

They agree to share information and discuss issues related to their respective experiences in the areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Science and technology, education and cultural exchanges

The China-United States Joint Commission on Science and Technology will continue to guide the active bilateral scientific and technological cooperation programme, which involves more than 30 agreements reached since 1979, and will promote the further use of science and technology to solve national and global problems. China and the United States also will identify areas for cooperative projects using space for earth science research and practical applications.

China and the United States will expand educational and cultural exchanges. Both Presidents believe that increased people-to-people exchanges will help to cultivate long-term bilateral relations.

President Jiang Zemin expressed his thanks to President Clinton and the American people for their warm reception and invited President Clinton to visit China in 1998. President Clinton accepted this invitation with pleasure.
